STADIUM & STREET

THE 2027 ROSTER PROJECT / CHICAGO WHITE SOX

Give the White Sox a sturdier rotation

Protect the young offense. Buy dependable innings.

84
WINS

+56
RUN MARGIN

3
COSTED PATHS

An independent review of the roster, defense, pitching, farm system and financial choices.

A preferred plan. Two tested alternatives. A clear account of what could go wrong.

Richard Brown | November 3, 2026

Completed 2026 regular season. Roster and market checks November 3.

Independent analysis. Proposed prices and workloads are scenarios.

stadiumandstreet.com

READING GUIDE

Start with the decision. Then test the evidence.

The opening brief states the recommendation and its price. The main analysis tests the roster and the alternatives. The back of the report preserves the player register, definitions and sources.

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A single public edition is suitable for forwarding. The analysis makes no claim of club affiliation or access to private baseball information.

ANALYSIS / 01

The verdict

The White Sox scored 129 more runs in 2026 than they did in 2025. They allowed only 22 fewer. The offense drove a 24-win improvement, and much of that offense remains under control. The next useful investment is a starting pitcher who can keep the bullpen from carrying another 766 innings. Chicago should protect the young lineup's opportunities while buying enough pitching to make its recovery more durable. [1,6]

Our preferred plan pursues Nick Martinez for two years and $26 million to $30 million, retains Sean Newcomb for two years and $12 million to $16 million, retains Trevor Richards for one year and $3 million to $5 million, and brings back Randal Grichuk for one year and $6 million to $8 million. A separate $6 million to $8 million reserve covers depth and in-season needs. Those are Stadium & Street negotiating limits, not reported offers or an assurance that these players will sign. [7,8,17]

The package adds $34 million to $44 million in annual allocation to an existing-roster envelope of $97.25 million to $101.25 million. The resulting $131.25 million to $145.25 million plan does not assume a healthy Luis Castillo, a recovered Drew Thorpe or salary relief from moving Andrew Benintendi. Those possibilities can improve the roster, but they cannot be spent before they exist. [3,9,10,17]

The strongest objection is that a team with several young pitchers should use its money elsewhere and let those arms grow. That is a reasonable development argument. The difficulty is the combination of short major-league track records, recoveries and the loss of three pitchers who supplied substantial 2026 innings. The preferred plan preserves opportunities for Noah Schultz, Hagen Smith, David Sandlin and Tanner McDougal while reducing the amount of immediate success required from all of them at once.

ANALYSIS / 02

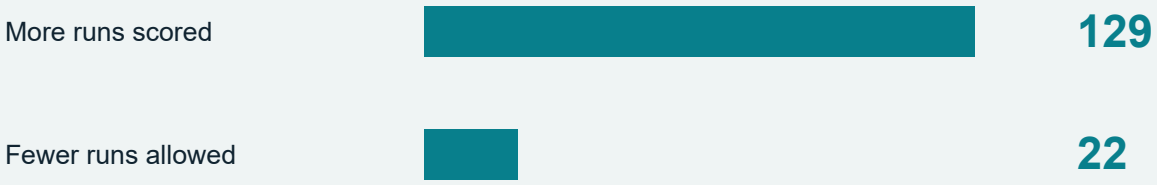
What actually changed

Chicago went from 41-121 in 2024 to 60-102 in 2025 and 84-78 in 2026. Its run margin moved from minus-306 to minus-95 to plus-56. The latest improvement was much more than a handful of close-game victories: 776 runs scored ranked fifth in the majors, while a 4.12 ERA ranked 14th. Those rankings describe different strengths. [1]

Season	Record	Runs for / against	Margin	OPS / ERA
2024	41-121	507 / 813	-306	.618 / 4.67
2025	60-102	647 / 742	-95	.675 / 4.26
2026	84-78	776 / 720	+56	.726 / 4.12

129 MORE RUNS, 22 FEWER ALLOWED

2025 margin: -95 / 2026 margin: +56



The run margin improved by 151; the win total rose by 24.

Source: MLB regular seasons. November 3, 2026 edition.

The White Sox then won the first two games of their Division Series against Cleveland before losing the last three. That result identifies the season's endpoint. It is not enough evidence to declare a psychological defect or to justify dismantling the roster. A five-game series should sharpen questions about deployment and depth without erasing 162 games of development. [1]

The larger challenge is sustaining an offense with several young contributors whose actual results and expected contact statistics do not all tell the same story. Chicago has earned a more ambitious plan. It has not earned permission to assume that every improvement will repeat.

ANALYSIS / 03

The roster has already moved

The current roster contains 39 players. On November 2, Chicago claimed Graham Pauley and outrighted Ky Bush and Junior Perez. Pauley's individual player record still carried Miami, but the current White Sox roster and the club's announcement establish the move. This analysis uses the transaction, not the stale affiliation label. [2,3,11]

Player / MLB ID	Feed status	Reconciled treatment
Andrew Benintendi / 643217	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Anthony Kay / 641743	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Braden Montgomery / 695731	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Brenton Doyle / 686668	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Brooks Baldwin / 681460	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Bryan Hudson / 663542	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Chase Meidroth / 805367	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Chris Murphy / 669684	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Colson Montgomery / 695657	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
David Sandlin / 689818	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Davis Martin / 663436	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Drew Romo / 691011	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Drew Thorpe / 689672	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Edgar Quero / 700337	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Graham Pauley / 688363	Active	November 2 waiver claim; Miami label superseded
Grant Taylor / 691799	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Hagen Smith / 696146	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Huascar Brazobán / 623211	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Joey Bart / 663698	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Jonathan Cannon / 686563	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Jordan Hicks / 663855	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Jordan Leasure / 673929	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Kyle Teel / 691019	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Luis Castillo / 622491	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Luisangel Acuña / 682668	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate

Player / MLB ID	Feed status	Reconciled treatment
Miguel Vargas / 678246	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Mike Vasil / 678024	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Munetaka Murakami / 808959	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Noah Schultz / 702273	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Prelander Berroa / 672860	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Rikuu Nishida / 807747	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Sam Antonacci / 803011	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Sean Burke / 680732	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Shane Smith / 681343	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Tanner McDougal / 701780	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Tanner Murray / 695020	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Tristan Peters / 671976	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Tyler Davis / 699823	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate
Tyler Schweitzer / 805326	Active	Retained; clinical clearance separate

Fedde, Newcomb, Richards and Grichuk are free agents. They remain in the historical tables because their work helped produce the 2026 result, but they cannot also be treated as contracted 2027 contributors. Any retained innings or plate appearances for them require a new agreement. [3,7,8]

Player / MLB ID	Current reconciliation	Roster consequence
Erick Fedde / 607200	Free agent	Only proposed Plan B retention
Sean Newcomb / 656794	Free agent	Retention requires new contract
Trevor Richards / 670950	Free agent	Retention requires new contract
Randal Grichuk / 545341	Free agent	No automatic outfield PA
Jacob Gonzalez / 694378	Pittsburgh Pirates	No retained CWS workload
Seranthony Domínguez / 622554	Traded; historical contributor	No retained innings; $0.5M expense retained
Junior Perez / 678577	Outrighted November 2	Minor-league depth; no funded MLB PA
Austin Hays / 669720	Departed	Hays buyout retained; no option salary
José Urquidy / 664353	Free agent	No retained innings
Brandon Eisert / 685126	Pittsburgh Pirates	No retained innings

Jacob Gonzalez is in Pittsburgh's organization. Seranthony Dominguez's White Sox innings also belong to the completed season, although a retained bonus expense remains in the financial bridge. These distinctions

prevent two common planning errors: counting a departed player as depth and removing a financial obligation merely because the player has left. [3,9]

ANALYSIS / 04

The offensive foundation

Miguel Vargas supplied 704 plate appearances, 33 home runs and 101 walks. Munetaka Murakami added 35 home runs and 92 walks in 553 plate appearances. Chicago now has two substantial sources of power and patience without needing to acquire another everyday first baseman. Their defensive limitations influence where they play, not whether their bats belong in the lineup. [1,4]

Player / MLB ID	CWS PA	AVG / OBP / SLG	HR	BB / K; treatment
Miguel Vargas / 678246	704	.250 / .363 / .474	33	101 / 126; Retained 3B/1B
Chase Meidroth / 805367	643	.276 / .350 / .415	16	61 / 141; Retained 2B
Colson Montgomery / 695657	638	.197 / .282 / .403	31	54 / 227; Retained SS/3B
Sam Antonacci / 803011	557	.277 / .370 / .396	8	43 / 82; Retained LF/2B
Munetaka Murakami / 808959	553	.207 / .347 / .478	35	92 / 196; Retained 1B/DH
Tristan Peters / 671976	491	.265 / .337 / .437	12	37 / 90; Retained CF/OF
Andrew Benintendi / 643217	468	.240 / .302 / .413	15	39 / 112; Retained DH/LF
Braden Montgomery / 695731	365	.226 / .312 / .350	6	38 / 72; Retained RF
Randal Grichuk / 545341	247	.299 / .328 / .598	15	10 / 51; Free agent; proposed retention
Luisangel Acuña / 682668	224	.229 / .261 / .276	2	9 / 44; Retained utility
Edgar Quero / 700337	217	.203 / .284 / .257	3	18 / 43; Retained catcher
Drew Romo / 691011	206	.144 / .240 / .294	7	20 / 47; Retained catcher
Kyle Teel / 691019	144	.210 / .336 / .361	5	19 / 51; Retained catcher; returned September 4
Jacob Gonzalez / 694378	97	.244 / .323 / .360	2	8 / 22; Pittsburgh; historical contributor
Brenton Doyle / 686668	94	.258 / .258 / .462	5	0 / 31; Acquired from Colorado
Derek Hill / 656537	90	.213 / .284 / .375	4	7 / 29; Departed
Everson Pereira / 677592	88	.225 / .284 / .438	4	5 / 30; Departed
Junior Perez / 678577	36	.171 / .194 / .429	3	1 / 14; Outrighted November 2

Chase Meidroth, Sam Antonacci and Tristan Peters added different forms of value. Meidroth reached 643 plate appearances, Antonacci produced a .766 OPS in 557, and Peters delivered a .774 OPS in 491. A useful

offseason should preserve those distinctions rather than turn the lineup into a search for nine home-run hitters. [1]

Colson Montgomery's 31 home runs came with 227 strikeouts in 638 plate appearances. His range at shortstop strengthens his case for continued development, but the strikeout total leaves little room for weak contact or poor sequencing. The task is to help him make more productive contact while retaining the power, not to celebrate the home-run total in isolation. [1,4]

ANALYSIS / 05

Contact quality and regression

Vargas's .378 expected wOBA exceeded his .363 actual mark. Murakami's .351 expected figure closely matched his .356 actual result, and Antonacci's .348 expected figure matched his .345 actual result. Those comparisons support important parts of the offensive improvement. They do not assign each player an exact 2027 outcome. [4]

Batter	wOBA	xwOBA	SLG / xSLG	Reading
Miguel Vargas	0.363	0.378	0.474 / 0.496	Expected production supports the breakout
Chase Meidroth	0.339	0.301	0.415 / 0.348	Actual production above contact estimate
Colson Montgomery	0.300	0.294	0.403 / 0.388	Power and defense; strikeouts constrain offense
Sam Antonacci	0.345	0.348	0.396 / 0.399	Actual and expected closely aligned
Munetaka Murakami	0.356	0.351	0.478 / 0.469	Strong contact-based production
Tristan Peters	0.340	0.314	0.437 / 0.384	Useful season; expected production lower
Andrew Benintendi	0.311	0.307	0.413 / 0.398	Paid veteran competing for DH time
Braden Montgomery	0.298	0.325	0.350 / 0.392	Expected results modestly stronger
Randal Grichuk	0.370	0.335	0.566 / 0.478	Full MLB sample, not only strong CWS stretch
Brenton Doyle	0.280	0.245	0.362 / 0.307	Full-season record includes Colorado

Meidroth and Peters require more caution. Their expected figures were below their actual production. That does not mean their seasons were fraudulent or that a decline is inevitable. It means the budget should not assume that every retained hitter will improve simply because he is young. Braden Montgomery offers a different case: his expected batting results were somewhat stronger than his actual production, leaving a plausible development route without an expensive replacement. [4]

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Miguel Vargas	237 / .506	569 / .717	704 / .837
Chase Meidroth	No MLB season	505 / .649	643 / .765
Colson Montgomery	No MLB season	284 / .840	638 / .685
Sam Antonacci	No MLB season	No MLB season	557 / .766
Munetaka Murakami	No MLB season	No MLB season	553 / .825

Hitter	2024 MLB PA / OPS	2025 MLB PA / OPS	2026 MLB PA / OPS
Tristan Peters	No MLB season	12 / .000	491 / .774
Andrew Benintendi	522 / .685	470 / .738	468 / .715
Braden Montgomery	No MLB season	No MLB season	365 / .662
Randal Grichuk	279 / .876	293 / .674	280 / .880
Brenton Doyle	603 / .763	538 / .650	223 / .637
Kyle Teel	No MLB season	297 / .786	144 / .697
Edgar Quero	No MLB season	403 / .689	217 / .541

The three-year table also shows where comparison is impossible. Some of the most important hitters have little or no earlier major-league record. A missing season is not zero ability, but it reduces confidence in a narrow forecast. Chicago should use ranges and preserve alternatives rather than attach a single projection to each unfamiliar name.

ANALYSIS / 06

Matchups without a platoon trap

Grichuk produced a .926 OPS in 247 White Sox plate appearances, but his full major-league season was 280 plate appearances with an .880 OPS. The smaller Chicago sample is not the correct basis for assuming everyday production. We assign him 260 plate appearances in a limited corner role and compare the full-season handedness splits below. [1,5]

Batter / full MLB season	LHP: PA / OPS	RHP: PA / OPS
Miguel Vargas	208 / .926	496 / .801
Chase Meidroth	183 / 1.023	460 / .665
Colson Montgomery	197 / .778	441 / .644
Sam Antonacci	114 / .604	443 / .807
Munetaka Murakami	169 / .725	384 / .866
Tristan Peters	67 / .581	424 / .802
Andrew Benintendi	48 / .499	420 / .741
Braden Montgomery	103 / .430	262 / .755
Randal Grichuk	178 / 1.026	102 / .636
Brenton Doyle	97 / .791	126 / .521
Kyle Teel	39 / .575	105 / .744
Edgar Quero	91 / .515	126 / .560
Joey Bart	66 / .536	62 / .794

Batter / full MLB season	LHP: PA / OPS	RHP: PA / OPS
Graham Pauley	10 / .250	144 / .652

A short split can suggest a deployment choice without settling a player's long-term ability. Braden Montgomery needs meaningful work against major-league pitching, including difficult matchups. Grichuk can protect selected starts and supply a right-handed option without taking over the position. If his price or desired role exceeds this limited assignment, the club should keep the younger players' opportunities and use the internal alternative.

Benintendi's salary should not determine his batting order position or defensive workload. The contract is already a cost. The decision now is which matchups and assignments make the remaining plate appearances most useful. A reduced role can be justified without assuming that another club will absorb the contract.

ANALYSIS / 07

Preserve the range, repair the corners

Meidroth recorded plus-10 Outs Above Average, Colson Montgomery plus-12 and Peters plus-11. Vargas was minus-8 and Antonacci minus-9. Those results suggest a roster with valuable range up the middle and more difficult decisions at the corners. They are not interchangeable measures of every defensive skill, and a single season should not be treated as a permanent label. [4]

Fielder	2024 OAA	2025 OAA	2026 OAA	2026 opportunities
Chase Meidroth	No row	+2	+10	546
Colson Montgomery	No row	+7	+12	502
Tristan Peters	No row	-1	+11	378
Brenton Doyle	+14	+6	+1	187
Miguel Vargas	-5	-6	-8	454
Sam Antonacci	No row	No row	-9	290
Munetaka Murakami	No row	No row	-1	319
Andrew Benintendi	-5	-8	-1	15
Braden Montgomery	No row	No row	0	246
Luisangel Acuña	+3	0	0	234
Randal Grichuk	-1	-2	0	86
Graham Pauley	-1	+7	+1	137

Player	2026 CWS defensive innings	2027 assignment
Miguel Vargas	1B 187.2; 3B 1142.0	3B/1B/DH; bat earns work, defense needs improvement
Chase Meidroth	3B 6.0; SS 54.0; 2B 1275.2	2B and occasional SS
Colson Montgomery	3B 264.2; SS 979.0	SS/3B
Sam Antonacci	2B 153.0; LF 918.2; 3B 1.0	LF/2B
Munetaka Murakami	1B 1029.2	1B/DH
Tristan Peters	LF 89.0; RF 112.0; CF 926.0	CF with both corners available
Andrew Benintendi	LF 55.0; RF 3.0	Mostly DH; limited LF
Braden Montgomery	CF 4.0; RF 785.0	RF; limited corner flexibility
Brenton Doyle	CF 216.0	CF; corner fallback requires spring verification
Luisangel Acuña	2B 1.0; LF 3.0; SS 395.0; CF 171.2	SS/CF/2B utility
Graham Pauley	MIA: 1B 34.1; 3B 349.2	1B/3B; 2026 Miami innings shown separately

The preferred alignment keeps Colson at shortstop, Meidroth primarily at second and Peters in center. Vargas receives substantial third-base work because his bat is central to the offense, with some first-base and designated-hitter assignments. Antonacci remains a left fielder with a real second-base reserve role, supported by his 153 innings there in 2026. [6]

Brenton Doyle supplies a second demonstrated center fielder. We do not give him unverified right-field starts merely to make a spreadsheet balance. The main defensive map uses Braden Montgomery, Grichuk and Peters in right; any expanded corner role for Doyle needs actual preparation and verification.

ANALYSIS / 08

Four catchers, one development problem

Teel, Quero, Romo and Bart are controlled catching options. Their 2026 records do not support treating any one of them as a complete solution. Quero's .541 OPS and Romo's .534 OPS came in limited samples, while Teel managed a .697 OPS in 144 plate appearances. The club needs better offense without discarding the defensive and developmental differences among them. [1,4]

Catcher	2026 CWS catching IP	Framing runs	Overall catching value
Kyle Teel	288.1	-1.5	No qualified row
Edgar Quero	438.0	-3.9	No qualified row
Drew Romo	504.0	+0.5	+2.1 runs
Joey Bart	15.0	-2.4	No qualified row

The framing table shows different signals from Romo and the other catchers. A missing qualified overall catching value is not proof of zero value. Framing, blocking, throwing, game preparation and workload all matter, and the available public measures cover only part of that job. [4]

Bart returned after a left-hand fracture, and Teel returned in September after an ankle injury. Their administrative activation is useful evidence of a return, not a medical guarantee for the next season. The 900 combined plate appearances assigned to the four catchers include designated-hitter work and changing roster availability across the year. This is not a recommendation to carry four catchers on every active roster. [3]

ANALYSIS / 09

Why the rotation needs help

White Sox starters supplied 674 2/3 innings with a 4.60 ERA. Relievers supplied 766 innings with a 3.70 ERA. The classification includes openers and flexible roles, so the gap is not simply a list of starters who failed to finish five innings. It nevertheless shows how much of the season depended on pitchers working outside conventional starting assignments. [6]

Pitcher / MLB ID	GS / CWS IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB / HR	Treatment
Sean Burke / 680732	27 / 172.1	3.34 / 3.78	185 / 62 / 19	Retained rotation leader
Anthony Kay / 641743	31 / 158.0	4.44 / 5.05	129 / 56 / 21	Retained; expected ERA higher
Davis Martin / 663436	28 / 146.0	3.95 / 4.69	122 / 46 / 14	Retained; September return from blister
Erick Fedde / 607200	15 / 141.0	3.83 / 4.79	99 / 52 / 23	Free agent; Plan B retention
Noah Schultz / 702273	14 / 74.1	5.57 / 5.62	67 / 31 / 11	Developmental rotation opportunity
David Sandlin / 689818	6 / 40.1	5.58 / 3.98	40 / 13 / 7	Rotation depth; stronger AAA results
Luis Castillo / 622491	6 / 31.0	8.42 / 5.02	26 / 12 / 9	Shoulder recovery; separate conditional return
Shane Smith / 681343	3 / 8.1	10.80 / 4.76	11 / 9 / 1	Depth; no assumed rebound
Jonathan Cannon / 686563	0 / 3.0	9.00 / 7.77	4 / 5 / 0	AAA workload supports depth, not dominance

Sean Burke was the clearest foundation: 172 1/3 innings, a 3.34 ERA, 185 strikeouts and 62 walks. Davis Martin supplied 146 innings with a 3.95 ERA. Anthony Kay supplied 158 innings with a 4.44 ERA, while his expected ERA was higher. That is a workable returning group, but it leaves both quality and volume to be supplied behind it. [1,4]

The preferred workload asks those three for 445 combined starter innings. It gives Schultz 100, Sandlin 60, Cannon 40 and McDougal 40. The remaining 165 belong to the proposed Martinez acquisition. This approach creates actual jobs for developing pitchers while avoiding a plan in which every open start requires a breakthrough.

ANALYSIS / 10

Recovery is a branch, not the foundation

Castillo's 2026 White Sox results were poor, and he went on the injured list in September with shoulder impingement. His salary remains in the base budget. His innings do not appear in the main rotation. A separately balanced return scenario gives him 20 starts and 100 innings only after health, effectiveness and workload are established. [1,3,9]

Thorpe's official transaction history records Tommy John surgery recovery, a summer rehabilitation progression and a September activation. He threw 29 Triple-A innings with a 2.79 ERA, plus earlier rehabilitation work at lower levels. That is a reason to retain a recovery path, not a reason to budget 150 major-league innings. His conditional branch is eight starts and 40 innings. [3,12]

Vasil and Berroa receive no opening workload in the main plan. Leasure receives a separate conditional relief branch after his flexor recovery. Murphy returned September 7 after a flexor strain and receives a modest assignment with an explicit replacement if unavailable. These are individual cases, not a single category called healthy because the 60-day injured list was cleared administratively. [3]

ANALYSIS / 11

Keep the bullpen's useful bulk

Grant Taylor struck out 106 hitters in 84 innings with a 2.25 ERA. Hagen Smith struck out 41 in 28 innings, but also walked 16. Taylor can anchor important innings, while Smith's electric results still require command and workload judgment. Neither should be assigned every difficult inning created by a thin rotation. [1,4]

Pitcher	2026 CWS IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Grant Taylor	84.0	2.25 / 2.97	106 / 30	Primary high-leverage arm
Hagen Smith	28.0	1.29 / 2.45	41 / 16	Controlled workload; walks remain a concern
Sean Newcomb	90.1	3.09 / 4.27	84 / 34	Free agent; proposed bulk retention
Trevor Richards	78.2	3.78 / 4.15	68 / 23	Free agent; proposed bulk retention
Jordan Hicks	48.0	3.94 / 2.85	64 / 33	Retained; walks limit leverage confidence
Bryan Hudson	67.1	3.74 / 3.20	59 / 18	Retained multi-inning option
Tyler Schweitzer	37.1	3.13 / 5.65	18 / 12	Depth; ERA and expected ERA disagree
Tyler Davis	32.0	3.66 / 3.42	27 / 16	Retained depth
Chris Murphy	33.2	4.81 / 3.87	35 / 16	Returned September 7; flexor review
Huascar Brazobán	14.1	4.40 / 3.50	7 / 6	Small sample
Jordan Leasure	18.2	6.27 / 7.62	18 / 8	Flexor recovery; separate conditional branch

Pitcher	2026 CWS IP	ERA / full MLB xERA	K / BB	Treatment
Seranthony Domínguez	38.1	3.99 / 3.65	47 / 23	Traded; historical contribution

Newcomb and Richards are the preferred retentions because Chicago has already demonstrated a need for multi-inning work. Newcomb supplied 90 1/3 White Sox innings. Richards supplied 78 2/3 for Chicago and 83 across his full major-league season. Our assignments of 75 and 65 relief innings are below those completed totals, though they remain contingent on a new deal and a healthy return. [1,5]

Hicks's 33 walks in 48 innings limit confidence in a high-leverage role despite a more encouraging expected ERA. Hudson, Schweitzer, Davis, Murphy and Brazoban provide depth, but their samples and underlying measures vary. The plan should make those pitchers compete for appropriate roles rather than assume that last year's relief ERA guarantees another strong bullpen. [1,4]

ANALYSIS / 12

Compare the actual starter choices

Martinez offers a distinctive combination in this candidate group: 180 innings, a 3.10 ERA and only 26 walks. His expected ERA was 3.98, so the proposal does not pay for a guaranteed repeat of the actual ERA. It pays for demonstrated volume and strike throwing at a two-year limit. [5,7]

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Nick Martinez / 607259	180.0 IP, 3.10 ERA, 3.98 xERA; 109 K / 26 BB	A: 2 years / $26-30M
Erick Fedde / 607200	141.0 IP, 3.83 ERA, 4.79 xERA; 99 K / 52 BB	B: 1 year / $8-10M
Sean Newcomb / 656794	90.1 IP, 3.09 ERA, 4.27 xERA; 84 K / 34 BB	Retain: 2 years / $12-16M
Trevor Richards / 670950	83.0 IP, 3.69 ERA, 4.15 xERA; 73 K / 26 BB	Retain: 1 year / $3-5M
Randal Grichuk / 545341	280 PA, .880 OPS, 15 HR; 0.370/0.335 wOBA/xwOBA	Retain: 1 year / $6-8M
Tyler Mahle / 641816	149.0 IP, 3.99 ERA, 3.95 xERA; 137 K / 46 BB	Alternate: 2 years / $28-32M
Jameson Taillon / 592791	86.0 IP, 5.65 ERA, 5.96 xERA; 76 K / 32 BB	Evaluate only; elbow and performance risks
Brady Singer / 663903	157.0 IP, 5.85 ERA, 5.99 xERA; 126 K / 62 BB	Evaluate only; poor 2026 run prevention
Shane Bieber / 669456	55.2 IP, 4.37 ERA, 5.99 xERA; 44 K / 24 BB	Medical inquiry only; no funded workload
Lucas Giolito / 608337	29.2 IP, 5.16 ERA, 5.62 xERA; 18 K / 23 BB	Medical inquiry only; no funded workload
Zack Littell / 641793	124.1 IP, 5.21 ERA, 6.64 xERA; 73 K / 39 BB	Evaluate only; no preferred purchase

Candidate / MLB ID	Full 2026 MLB evidence	S&S ceiling / decision
Taylor Clarke / 664199	73.0 IP, 2.96 ERA, 4.42 xERA; 45 K / 14 BB	Alternate: 1 year / $4-6M
Andrew Kittredge / 552640	48.1 IP, 3.54 ERA, 4.01 xERA; 40 K / 11 BB	Alternate: 1 year / $5-7M
Steven Okert / 595345	67.2 IP, 2.13 ERA, 3.13 xERA; 68 K / 14 BB	Alternate: 1 year / $8-10M

Fedde is the lower-cost alternative. His 141 innings and 3.83 ERA provide a credible retention case, but 52 walks and a 4.79 expected ERA weaken the argument that he solves the same problem at equal quality. Plan B gives him the same 165-inning job for accounting purposes and explicitly requires a workload review. That assignment is an expansion, not evidence that he already performed it. [5]

Mahle is a useful alternative at two years and $28 million to $32 million, adding $1 million annually to the Martinez range. Taillon, Singer, Bieber, Giolito and Littell were examined because a serious analysis needs alternatives. Their 2026 performance, reduced innings or medical issues make them less suitable as the main purchased foundation at this checkpoint. A cheaper contract does not necessarily buy a safer workload.

ANALYSIS / 13

Repeated targets must earn their place

Martinez appears in several S&S club analyses because a starter with 180 innings and 26 walks addresses a common need. Chicago's job is specific: 30 starts and 165 innings replacing the amount of developmental depth otherwise required from Schultz, Sandlin, Cannon, McDougal and Shane Smith. The same two-year, $26 million to $30 million ceiling used elsewhere is retained here. We do not invent a Chicago discount or assume that all interested clubs can obtain him. [17,20]

Grichuk's proposed $6 million to $8 million is attached to 260 plate appearances, not an everyday job. That limited assignment is consistent with the need to preserve Braden Montgomery's development. Newcomb and Richards address Chicago's unusually large relief workload; their roles are more directly tied to this roster than adding a familiar late-inning name with no identified innings to replace.

Clarke, Kittredge and Steven Okert are alternative relief candidates. Substituting one for Richards changes both price and workload: each receives 60 innings, with Hudson taking the remaining five. Okert is substantially more expensive than the preferred Richards range and needs a stronger leverage justification. None is funded in addition to the complete preferred package. [5,17]

These plans are free-agent purchases and retentions. They require no invented trade return or outgoing prospect package. If the club pursues a trade instead, the actual player control, salary, roster space and outgoing talent must be evaluated together. The depth reserve is not a claim on an unnamed star.

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The farm is a source of options

Caleb Bonemer hit 19 home runs in Double-A after 18 in High-A, producing a .924 OPS in 317 Double-A plate appearances. He also played center field in Double-A in addition to the left side of the infield. That combination gives Chicago an interesting route to a future opening, but it does not settle which major-league job he is ready to perform. [12]

Player / MLB ID	2026 level and sample	Readiness decision
Caleb Bonemer / 815352	AA: 317 PA, .924 OPS, 19 HR; 46 BB / 80 K	19 AA HR; 18 A+ HR. No automatic MLB role
Roch Cholowsky / 800604	A+: 46 PA, .659 OPS, 1 HR; 7 BB / 9 K	Only 46 A+ PA; no 2027 MLB workload assumed
Billy Carlson / 815814	A: 257 PA, .726 OPS, 0 HR; 41 BB / 58 K	Development before MLB promotion
Jaden Fauske / 828262	A: 538 PA, .748 OPS, 4 HR; 94 BB / 125 K	Catching development; no immediate MLB promise
William Bergolla Jr. / 703151	AAA: 43 PA, 1.096 OPS, 0 HR; 5 BB / 4 K	Only 43 AAA PA; maintain depth competition
Ryan Galanie / 814436	AAA: 418 PA, .859 OPS, 19 HR; 30 BB / 99 K	Potential corner depth; selection and opportunity required
Rikuu Nishida / 807747	AAA: 485 PA, .745 OPS, 1 HR; 83 BB / 89 K	Retained roster utility option
Samuel Zavala / 694214	AA: 484 PA, .779 OPS, 14 HR; 94 BB / 112 K	AA outfield development
George Wolkow / 805804	A+: 557 PA, .763 OPS, 22 HR; 50 BB / 179 K	Longer-term power development
Kyle Lodise / 827517	A+: 525 PA, .820 OPS, 20 HR; 92 BB / 141 K	Infield development
Noah Schultz / 702273	AAA: 44.2 IP, 2.01 ERA; 44 K / 13 BB	44.2 AAA plus 74.1 MLB IP; 100 MLB IP plan
Hagen Smith / 696146	AAA: 58.1 IP, 4.32 ERA; 87 K / 40 BB	58.1 AAA plus 28 MLB IP; 70 relief IP plan
Drew Thorpe / 689672	AAA: 29.0 IP, 2.79 ERA; 25 K / 8 BB	29 AAA rehab IP; 40 MLB IP conditional branch
Tanner McDougal / 701780	AAA: 47.2 IP, 4.34 ERA; 49 K / 30 BB	47.2 AAA IP; command gate before MLB expansion
Jonathan Cannon / 686563	AAA: 122.1 IP, 4.78 ERA; 121 K / 43 BB	122.1 AAA IP; depth, not guaranteed quality
David Sandlin / 689818	AAA: 65.0 IP, 2.22 ERA; 66 K / 30 BB	65 AAA IP; starting and relief flexibility

Roch Cholowsky's 46 High-A plate appearances are far too small a professional sample to build the 2027 roster around. Carlson and Fauske remain development cases. Their presence strengthens the organization's options over time without making a current free-agent or medical problem disappear. [12,13]

Schultz threw 44 2/3 Triple-A innings in addition to his 74 1/3 in the majors. Hagen Smith threw 58 1/3 Triple-A innings before his major-league work. Those completed workloads provide a more useful starting point than prospect rank alone. McDougal's Triple-A command and very small major-league sample require particular restraint. [12]

Bonemer can earn a 200-plate-appearance branch by taking 100 from Benintendi and 100 from Braden Montgomery, provided his actual defensive role, selection and readiness justify it. That is a competition with named displaced players. It is not a promotion promised before spring training.

ANALYSIS / 15

Start with the money already committed

The five listed guarantees total $74.25 million on the salary-plus-allocated-bonus basis used here. Castillo, Murakami, Benintendi, Hicks and Kay remain costs before any new acquisition. The credits below are applied once, and retained expenses stay in the model even when the player has departed. [9]

Player / MLB ID	2027 allocation	Basis
Luis Castillo / 622491	$24.150M	Before $1.4M bonus credit; no 2027 Seattle salary credit carried over
Munetaka Murakami / 808959	$17.500M	2027 allocation; no new first-base acquisition
Andrew Benintendi / 643217	$15.100M	Contract cost remains even if playing time falls
Jordan Hicks / 663855	$12.500M	Before $0.5M bonus and $4M Boston credits
Anthony Kay / 641743	$5.000M	2028 mutual option and buyout are future decisions
GROSS TOTAL	$74.250M	Credits, retained expense and arbitration below

Six arbitration estimates total $15.4 million. Those are published estimates, not agreed salaries. Changes at tender time will change the payroll envelope and may also remove a player's assigned workload. The model does not take a projected salary saving while keeping the same player's innings or plate appearances. [10]

Player	Estimate, $M	Treatment
Joey Bart	2.90	Published estimate; unsigned salary
Huascar Brazoban	1.60	Published estimate; unsigned salary
Brenton Doyle	3.60	Published estimate; unsigned salary
Miguel Vargas	5.40	Published estimate; unsigned salary
Chris Murphy	0.90	Published estimate; unsigned salary
Jordan Leasure	1.00	Published estimate; unsigned salary
TOTAL	15.40	Six retained cases

The largest accounting trap is carrying Seattle's 2026 Castillo contribution into 2027. The payroll source lists that amount in the 2026 column only. It is not a recurring discount in this analysis. The Castillo bonus credit, Hicks bonus credit and Boston contribution have separate 2027 entries. [9]

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The financial bridge

After the $1.4 million Castillo bonus credit, $4.5 million in Hicks-related credits, $0.5 million retained Dominguez bonus, arbitration estimates, a $1 million Hays buyout and a $12 million to $16 million pre-arbitration and depth allowance, the starting envelope is $97.25 million to $101.25 million. [9,10,17]

Component	Annual allocation	Definition
Five contracts	$74.25M	Salary-plus-allocated-bonus basis
Castillo bonus credit	-$1.40M	Remove allocated bonus paid elsewhere
Hicks credits	-$4.50M	$0.5M bonus plus $4M Boston contribution
Dominguez retained bonus	$0.50M	Expense retained after departure
Arbitration	$15.40M	Six retained cases
Hays current buyout	$1.00M	2027 column; no option salary carried
Pre-arb, minors and callups	$12-16M	S&S planning allowance
Existing-roster envelope	$97.25-101.25M	Allocation, not cash or official CBT

Kay's potential $2 million buyout belongs to a later option decision, not the current 2027 charge. The earlier Martin Perez buyout also belongs to a different year. Including either again would exaggerate the current cost. Conversely, dropping Benintendi or Castillo from the expense column because their roles are uncertain would understate it. [9]

These figures are planning allocations. They are not a bank-account cash schedule, an official competitive-balance-tax calculation or a claim about what ownership has approved. The club's actual willingness to spend must be established separately from the arithmetic.

ANALYSIS / 17

Three funded choices

Plan A buys Martinez's starter role, retains Newcomb and Richards for 140 combined relief innings, retains Grichuk for 260 plate appearances and includes the depth reserve. Its $34 million to $44 million annual addition corresponds to $53 million to $67 million in total new commitments, including the reserve. The distinction matters because two of the proposed contracts run for two years. [17]

Plan	Annual additions	Total allocation	New commitment
A: Martinez / Newcomb / Richards / Grichuk	$34-44M	$131.25-145.25M	$53-67M
B: Fedde replaces Martinez; same retentions	$29-39M	$126.25-140.25M	$35-47M
C: Internal roster	$6-8M	$103.25-109.25M	$6-8M

THREE ANNUAL SPENDING PLANS



S&S annual additions. Each includes a $6-8M depth reserve.

Proposed ceilings and reserve. No signing, health or performance guarantee.

Plan B replaces Martinez with one year of Fedde at $8 million to $10 million. The rest of the package remains funded. That produces a $126.25 million to $140.25 million annual envelope and $35 million to $47 million in new commitments. It is a cheaper, less reliable version of the same workload structure, not a second roster that quietly keeps Martinez too.

Plan C adds only the $6 million to $8 million reserve. The $103.25 million to $109.25 million total leaves the lineup largely internal and asks the developing pitchers to absorb the missing work. It is financially coherent. Its risk is baseball depth: another setback could force the club to purchase pitching later from a weaker negotiating position.

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The branches have prices

Every substitute needs a corresponding deletion. Mahle replaces Martinez. A different reliever replaces Richards. A healthy Castillo replaces assigned internal starts. Grichuk's departure returns plate appearances to the younger outfielders. This is how the plan avoids presenting several attractive names as if they all fit at once. [17]

Branch	Annual allocation effect	Meaning
Mahle instead of Martinez	A adds $1M annually	$14-16M annual; $28-32M guarantee replaces $26-30M
Clarke instead of Richards	A adds $1M annually	$4-6M for 60 IP; remaining 5 IP to Hudson
Kittredge instead of Richards	A adds $2M annually	$5-7M for 60 IP; remaining 5 IP to Hudson
Okert instead of Richards	A adds $5M annually	$8-10M for 60 IP; remaining 5 IP to Hudson
Castillo returns	No salary reduction	Paid contract already included; innings replace internal starts
No Grichuk	A subtracts $6-8M	260 PA redistributed; no vacant production credited

Branch	Annual allocation effect	Meaning
No Newcomb or Richards	A subtracts $9-13M	140 relief innings move to named internal options
No acquisitions	Only $6-8M reserve	No speculative trade savings; internal roster carries the workload

Current free-agent eligibility and any signing compensation must be checked before an agreement. None of the preferred additions is justified by assuming a particular club will waive a right or that a reported market preference is a completed transaction. A price ceiling is useful only if the club is prepared to choose its alternative when the price is exceeded. [7,8,18]

ANALYSIS / 19

Give every hitter a real job

The preferred plan allocates 6,200 plate appearances. Vargas and the young middle infield remain central. Antonacci and Peters retain substantial opportunities. Murakami occupies first base and designated hitter, while Benintendi's role is reduced without pretending his salary disappears. [17]

Hitter	PA	Role
Miguel Vargas	650	3B/1B/DH
Chase Meidroth	600	2B/SS
Colson Montgomery	600	SS/3B
Sam Antonacci	550	LF/2B
Munetaka Murakami	550	1B/DH
Tristan Peters	550	CF/OF
Andrew Benintendi	400	DH/LF
Braden Montgomery	450	RF/LF
Randal Grichuk	260	Proposed corner retention
Brenton Doyle	240	CF; corner flexibility to verify
Kyle Teel	350	C/DH
Edgar Quero	300	C/DH
Joey Bart	150	C/DH; health review
Drew Romo	100	C/DH
Luisangel Acuna	300	SS/2B/CF
Graham Pauley	150	1B/3B
TOTAL	6200	Season allocation; not a 26-man Opening Day roster

Change from A	PA adjustment	Replacement and role
C: no Grichuk	-260	Braden +100; Doyle +80; Peters +40; Acuna +40
No Bart after health review	-150	Teel +75; Quero +50; Romo +25
No Pauley after roster decision	-150	Vargas +25; Colson +25; Murray +100. 1B: Vargas +12 starts; 3B: Murray +25; DH: Vargas -12, Quero +12
Bonemer earns an MLB role	No automatic addition	Create a new 200-PA branch by removing Benintendi 100 and Braden 100; verify corner position and selection first
TOTAL	6200	Every alternative displaces actual assignments

This is a full-season workload, including injuries, options, promotions and changing availability. It is not a claim that all 16 hitters belong on the same active roster. Pauley must earn his roster place; if he does not, the model replaces his plate appearances and revises the corner coverage rather than leaving an empty line.

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Balance the innings before praising the staff

The preferred rotation covers 162 starts and 850 innings. The relief allocation covers another 590, giving a 1,440-inning planning season. Actual innings will differ with extra innings, shortened games and home losses. The purpose is to expose missing work and conflicting assignments before attaching a win expectation to the roster. [17]

Pitcher	GS / IP	Condition
Sean Burke	30 / 170	Performance, health and full-season workload review
Davis Martin	28 / 145	Performance, health and full-season workload review
Anthony Kay	26 / 130	Performance, health and full-season workload review
Nick Martinez	30 / 165	Proposed acquisition, not retained player
Noah Schultz	20 / 100	Performance, health and full-season workload review
David Sandlin	12 / 60	Performance, health and full-season workload review
Jonathan Cannon	8 / 40	Performance, health and full-season workload review
Tanner McDougal	8 / 40	Performance, health and full-season workload review
TOTAL	162 / 850	Starter innings only; relief assignments separate

Pitcher	IP	Role or condition
Grant Taylor	90	Health, selection and command gate
Hagen Smith	70	Health, selection and command gate
Sean Newcomb	75	Proposed retention, not guaranteed availability

Pitcher	IP	Role or condition
Trevor Richards	65	Proposed retention, not guaranteed availability
Jordan Hicks	45	Health, selection and command gate
Bryan Hudson	55	Health, selection and command gate
Tyler Schweitzer	35	Health, selection and command gate
Tyler Davis	35	Health, selection and command gate
Chris Murphy	30	Returned September 7; flexor review and named fallback
Huascar Brazoban	25	Health, selection and command gate
Jonathan Cannon	20	Health, selection and command gate
David Sandlin	20	Health, selection and command gate
Tanner McDougal	10	Health, selection and command gate
Shane Smith	15	Health, selection and command gate
TOTAL	590	850 starter + 590 relief = 1,440 IP

Sandlin, Cannon and McDougal have both starting and relief assignments, but those are added explicitly. Their combined totals remain visible. Taylor's 90 innings and Hagen Smith's 70 also require active workload management rather than a promise that a young arm will repeat a short stretch for six months.

Change from A	IP / starts adjustment	Replacement
B: Fedde replaces Martinez	30 starts / 165 IP unchanged	Expansion from 141 total IP; medical and spring workload review
C: no Martinez	-30 starts / -165 IP	Schultz +6/30; Sandlin +8/45; Cannon +8/45; McDougal +4/25; Shane Smith +4/20
C: no Newcomb or Richards	-140 relief IP	Hudson +20; Schweitzer +20; Davis +20; Murphy +20; Brazoban +15; Cannon +15; Shane Smith +15; McDougal +15
Castillo cleared	+20 starts / +100 IP	Schultz -6/30; Sandlin -6/30; Cannon -4/20; McDougal -4/20
Thorpe cleared	+8 starts / +40 IP	Cannon -4/20; McDougal -4/20; do not stack unchanged with Castillo branch
Leasure cleared	+30 relief IP	Murphy -10; Davis -10; Brazoban -10
Murphy unavailable	-30 RP IP in A; -50 in C	A: Schweitzer +10, Davis +10, Brazoban +10; C: +20, +20, +10
TOTAL	162 starts; 850 + 590 IP	Balanced workload is not a performance forecast

The Castillo and Thorpe return branches cannot be stacked unchanged because they displace some of the same starts. If both become available, a new complete rotation map is required. The internal plan is similarly a coverage test, not evidence that its inexperienced innings will produce the same run prevention as the preferred acquisitions.

ANALYSIS / 21

Put the defense on the same calendar

The position map below allocates 162 starts at each position and prevents any hitter from being booked for more than 162 total starts. It keeps demonstrated center fielders in center, avoids an assumed Doyle corner conversion and gives the catchers defined designated-hitter opportunities. [6,17]

Pos.	162-start allocation	Purpose
C	Teel 75; Quero 55; Bart 22; Romo 10	Seasonal catching rotation; option and roster checks required
1B	Murakami 130; Vargas 20; Pauley 12	Existing bats occupy first base
2B	Meidroth 125; Antonacci 15; Acuna 22	Meidroth remains the regular
3B	Vargas 125; Pauley 25; Colson 12	Reserve work uses demonstrated positions
SS	Colson 130; Acuna 25; Meidroth 7	Preserve Colson development and range
LF	Antonacci 100; Benintendi 35; Grichuk 10; Braden 7; Peters 10	Limit veteran field exposure
CF	Peters 100; Doyle 55; Acuna 7	Three demonstrated center-field options
RF	Braden 107; Grichuk 45; Peters 10	Avoid assuming unverified Doyle corner work
DH	Teel 10; Quero 20; Bart 15; Romo 10; Murakami 20; Vargas 15; Benintendi 65; Grichuk 7	Rest, catching development and paid veteran at-bats

The alignment makes the central tradeoff clear. Chicago is retaining Vargas's offense at a defensive cost, limiting Benintendi's field exposure and protecting the young middle-infield combination. Defensive improvement can come from better execution and more suitable deployment without requiring a new player at every weak position.

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What improvement would have to accomplish

Chicago's 776 runs scored and 720 allowed produce about 87 wins in a simple squared-run-ratio calculation, compared with the actual 84. That difference is descriptive. It does not establish a bank of wins owed to the next team. The scenarios below show how changes in scoring and prevention interact. [1,17]

Illustrative change from 2026	RS / RA	Margin	Simple run-ratio wins
Unchanged runs	776 / 720	+56	87.1
Same offense; prevent 30	776 / 690	+86	90.5
Score 30 more; prevent 20	806 / 700	+106	92.3
Score 40 fewer; prevent 20	736 / 700	+36	85.1
Score 40 fewer; allow 30 more	736 / 750	-14	79.5

Preventing 30 more runs while preserving the offense offers a plausible route to a stronger team. Losing 40 runs of offense while allowing 30 more would erase the existing margin. This is why the rotation investment and the offensive development plan belong in the same analysis: a few extra starter innings are valuable only if they improve the team's total run picture.

The recommended first move is to establish the actual medical and workload outlook for Castillo, Thorpe and the recovering relievers while negotiating with the preferred starter group. Do not wait for those recoveries to become certain before learning the cost of outside help. Do not sign redundant hitters merely because the offense is easier to market.

ANALYSIS / 23

The decision and the evidence

The White Sox have a credible young offense and a staff that needs a more dependable distribution of work. Plan A is the best fit at the stated ceilings. Plan B is defensible if Martinez's market moves beyond the limit. Plan C is the honest fallback, with all of its developmental risk left visible.

The analysis uses completed 2026 statistics and information checked November 3. Later transactions, option decisions, medical updates and negotiations can change both cost and availability. Historical contributors, current players and proposed acquisitions are separated throughout. All acquisition prices, workload budgets and run scenarios are S&S judgments, not inside information or guaranteed outcomes.

[1] MLB completed team and player statistics

2024-26 regular seasons and completed postseason schedule. Club-specific samples identified.

Open source

[2] MLB White Sox roster

November 3: 39 players; administrative active status is not medical clearance.

Open source

[3] MLB player and team transactions

Dated transactions, departures, recoveries and individual player IDs.

Open source

[4] Baseball Savant expected statistics and defense

2024-26 expected batting, xERA, Outs Above Average, framing and catching values.

Open source

[5] MLB full player histories and splits

Full MLB season records separated from White Sox-only work; left/right matchup samples.

Open source

[6] MLB defensive innings and role splits

Actual position innings, starter/reliever classifications and workload definitions.

Open source

[7] MLB free-agent register

Reconciled with individual elections; former team labels can lag.

Open source

[8] MLB Players Association free-agent list

Current free-agent status checked November 3.

Open source

[9] FanGraphs RosterResource White Sox payroll

2027 contract, contribution and buyout columns. Allocation differs from cash and official CBT.

Open source

[10] MLB Trade Rumors arbitration projections via Yardbarker

Six retained arbitration estimates total $15.4M; estimates are not signed salaries.

Open source

[11] White Sox: Pauley waiver claim

November 2 roster moves corroborate current 39-player list.

Open source

[12] MLB affiliate records

Charlotte, Birmingham, Winston-Salem and Kannapolis results and positions; level-specific samples.

Open source

[13] MLB Pipeline White Sox prospects

Identity and organizational context checked against current official player and affiliate records.

Open source

[14] MLB option and opt-out register

Option decisions and candidate status require actual release-date recheck.

Open source

[15] MLB White Sox injury updates

Reported health and activation dates, not a guarantee of future workload.

Open source

[16] MLB individual roster reconciliation

Gonzalez current Pittsburgh affiliation; historical White Sox contribution remains separate.

Open source

[17] S&S planning calculations

Cross-club comparisons by exact job, displaced workload, price ceiling and internal alternative. Shared candidates are competing scenarios.

Open source

[18] MLB qualifying-offer rules

Verify actual eligibility and compensation before any agreement.

Open source

[19] White Sox official social directory

Official directory of the club's public social accounts.

Open source

[20] S&S team-analysis series

Cross-club comparisons by exact job, displaced workload, price ceiling and internal alternative. Shared candidates are competing scenarios.

Open source

Research, roster and candidate checks were completed November 3, 2026. Individual source dates and statistical periods are preserved above.